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School Committee Minutes 01/26/2010

Approved by the Arlington School Committee May 11, 2010

**THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2010
7:30 P.M.**

Present: Denise Burns, Vice Chair Joe Curro, Secretary
Leba Heigham Ronald Spangler
Cindy Starks Jeff Thielman

Interim Superintendent: Kathleen Bodie
Interim Assistant Superintendent Wallis Raemer,
Chief Financial Officer: Diane Johnson
Student Representatives: Jennie LaCourt

Joe Curran, Chair arrived at 8:30 p.m.

Excused Absence: Special Education Director: Mark Ryder

Ms. Burns exited the meeting at 8:36 p.m. and returned at 8:40 p.m.
Mr. Thielman exited the meeting at 9:40 and returned at 9:42 p.m.
Dr. Spangler exited the meeting at 9:41 and returned at 9:45 p.m.

Ms. Burns opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. Sharon Wilke, parent of two Arlington High School students, requested that the administration provide the town with a clear and comprehensive explanation of where things stand with next years budget and post the impacts on our website.

Mr. Michael McGee, parent, addressed the committee about the last School Committee meeting, January 12, 2010. Mr. McGee commented positively on Dr. Bodie's financial presentation, and on how the student representatives participated at the last meeting. He was appalled at the behavior of non-leadership within the School Committee members during that meeting.

Mr. Kurt Fusaris congratulated Dr. Bodie on the financial presentation given at the last School Committee meeting and would like to protect the quality of Arlington Schools and would help lead an override.

Ms. Carol Greeley, parent, and Peirce PTO co-chair, addressed Dr. Bodie on starting the process for the Principal Search for the Peirce Elementary as was promised by her to the community last July .

The following schedule for upcoming Budget Forums was announced:

Bishop PTO, Wednesday, January 27, 2010, 7 p.m. Mr. Joe Curro will be attending.
Dallin PTO, Thursday January 28, 2010, 7 p.m. Dr. Bodie, and Diane Johnson will be present.
Hardy PTO, Tuesday, February 2, 2010, 6 p.m. State Rep and State Senator will be present.
Stand for Children, St. Paul's Church, Route 2, Thursday, February 11, 2010, 7 p.m. Mr. Joe Curro and Mr. Allan Tosti will be present.
The Budget Revenue Task Force will be meeting with the Selectmen on Monday, February 1, 2010 in the Selectmen's Hearing Room, Town Hall.

GLOBAL EDUCATION

Ms. Kerry Dunne, Director of Social Studies for K-12 at Arlington Public Schools presented how the social studies department is working towards achieving the 2009-2010 goals related to embedding 21st Century skills and global education. Ms. Dunne explained the various partnership opportunities for professional development for teachers and enrichment for students.

The committee members were very impressed with the presentation and the partnerships Ms. Dunne has formed and encourages many other departments to follow her lead.

BUDGET UPDATE

Dr. Kathleen Bodie, Interim Superintendent stated that the Budget discussions have been going on since the fall and reminded everyone that the timelines with the state and federal budgets are not in sync with the schools and towns budget timelines, which makes it difficult to project a budget bottom line number. However, Dr. Bodie and Ms. Diane Johnson, Chief Financial Officer received some new budget information regarding circuit breaker and IDEA stimulus money for FY 11 that could reduce the projected \$6.8 million shortfall to about \$5.85 million.

After listening to the budget update, the committee members agreed to have our state representative speak with the governor and plead our case. It was recommended that the public go to our website to review budget data, attend our public hearings and attend the many budget forums being held over the next few weeks..

Dr. Bodie's own recommendation to the School Committee members is that we do a search for the Peirce Principal and following the discussion of the pro's and con's of hiring an assistant principal or principal at the Peirce Elementary School the motion was made:

Mr. Thielman moved to direct the Superintendent to conduct the Search for the Principal of The Peirce Elementary School and be opened to finding someone with the capacity to take on other administrative tasks, seconded by Dr. Spangler.

Voted: 4-3, Mr. Curro, Ms. Burns and Mr. Curran voted No.

Some of the committee members were encouraging Dr. Bodie to include additional language in the job description for the principal position due to the smaller size of the Peirce and by adding additional administrative duties to the job posting. Ms. Heigham offered a friendly amendment to include the language, however, Mr. Thielman preferred his original motion.

DRAFT of 2010 - 2011 SCHOOL CALENDAR

Dr. Bodie presented the draft of the 2010 and 2011 School Calendar to the committee members. The discussion from the committee members was around the start of school year date, the difficulty of elementary early release days all being held in the same week and possibly adding one evening conference for elementary parents.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Bodie notified the committee that the Stratton Elementary School has been nominated by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to the Blue Ribbon Program, which is the national school recognition program that honors public and private K-12 schools that are academically superior in their state or demonstrates dramatic gains in student achievement.

Dr. Bodie received an announcement from Ms. Bouvier, Director of Health and Wellness that most students are applying to colleges for early action or early decision and that 78.3% have been admitted to their choice school. Dr. Bodie also stated that in the Arlington Public Schools there are 59 identified languages spoken at home. Dr. Bodie said that Maryellen Loud received Recognition of Outstanding Achievement at the 22nd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Observance celebration.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Mr. Curro reported on all correspondence received: Martin Luther King, Jr. brochures Stratton Scene, OPAC Spaghetti Social announcement, 5,2,1 Program article in the Arlington Advocate, Summary Report of the Arlington Superintendent Search Focus Groups, that will be posted to our website and the Boston.com articles on the recent teen's suicide, and bullying, draft minutes from November 24, 2009, and December 22, 2009.

CONSENT AGENDA all items listed with an asterisk (*) are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the committee so request, in which event the item will be considered in its normal sequence.

Approval of Warrant # 10099 dated January 12, 2010 in the amount of \$400,092.93.

Mr. Curro moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Mr. Thielman.

Voted: 7-0

ROUNDTABLE

Mr. Curro attended the Sonic Voyages at Arlington High School and attended the farewell for the Assistant Town Manager, Ms. Nancy Galkowski along with other members. Dr. Spangler, member of Vision 2020 announced the upcoming budget survey the committee is doing. Ms. Heigham noted the District Accountability meeting was held today before the regular School Committee meeting and the subcommittee will continue to discuss district goals at the next meeting to be held on Tuesday, February 23, 2010 and that the meeting scheduled on Tuesday, February 9, 2010 has been cancelled.

Ms. Heigham also noted that the Superintendent Search Selection Committee had meet on January 21, 2010 and School Committee Chair designee Ms. Denise Burns and student representative Lindsay Diranian will join the committee. Ms. Heigham thanked the teachers who helped organized messages of hope to Haiti.

Ms. Starks attended the Arlington Youth and Health Coalition meeting last week and announced that on March 18th the Community Forum will be held at Town Hall. Ms. Stark's noted that next week a concert with Ottoson Middle School and Arlington High School will be held on February 3rd and a concert will be held on Friday, February 5th for the Jazz band before they head off to Italy.

Ms. Jenna LaCourt reminded the committee members of the consequence of change with the budget and number of students in classrooms would affect students in the Arlington Public Schools. Ms. Burns will be holding a Policy and Procedures Subcommittee soon and will look at a policy regarding defibrillators in schools and cars idling in front of schools. Mr. Curran noted the Daddy Daughter Dance on Friday, February 5th.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Curro moved to enter Executive Session at 10:16 p.m. to deliberate strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation, and that collective bargaining may also be conducted only to return to open session for the purpose for adjournment, seconded by Ms. Heigham.

Roll Call: Ms. Starks Yes, Ms. Heigham Yes, Dr. Spangler Yes, Mr. Thielman Yes, Mr.

Curro Yes, Ms. Burns No, and Mr. Curran Yes.

Voted: 6-1

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Curro moved to adjourn at 10:57 p.m. seconded by Ms. Starks.

Voted 6-0

Respectfully submitted by
Karen M. Fitzgerald

Administrative Assistant
Arlington School Committee/cs